

CASES IN SURGERY.

ON THE

MALFORMATIONS AND DISEASES

OF THE

HEAD.

ILLUSTRATED WITH ETCHINGS.

BY

WILLIAM WADD, ESQ. F.L.S.

SURGEON EXTRAORDINARY TO HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT,
&c. &c. &c.

London:

PRINTED FOR J. CALLOW, MEDICAL BOOKSELLER,
PRINCES STREET, CORNER OF GERRARD STREET, SOHO,
BY J. DAVY, QUEEN STREET, SEVEN DIALS.

1819.

DISEASES OF THE HEAD.

THE pathology of the brain, is not only the most interesting, but is perhaps the most defective branch of medical science.

In the succeeding cases and plates, I propose to illustrate curious facts, and to connect morbid alterations of structure, with some previous symptoms.

The state of the bones of the head, is occasionally, an important object of consideration, in the dissection of persons, who have laboured under disordered affections of the sensorial powers.

Pressure, whether from bone or fluid, will interrupt, and suspend the functions of the brain, producing derangements, varying according to the modifications of the cause.

Slight depressions of the skull, and small bony exostosis, are very frequently productive of serious inter-

ruptions to the cerebral functions, and even death: while with more extensive disease, and enlargement of the bones. the brain seems to possess a power of accommodating itself to the gradual change, and the fatal effects do not ensue. But though life exists under these circumstances, the reasoning powers are usually impaired or destroyed.

From the frequency with which insanity has been found connected with a diseased state of the brain and its coverings, and from the fact, that when it has been the effect of external injury, cases have occurred, in which a cure has been effected by external means—the state of the bones of the head, ought to form an object of interest and consideration. If the connection between diseased coverings of the head, and diseased affections of the brain, could be demonstrated, an argument might be made for surgical assistance, in a description of cases, usually left to their own course.

Professor Pinel and others have found no defect of conformation, which may not be observed in persons enjoying the full use of their reason; on the contrary, Greding states, that the skulls of the greater number of insane persons are very thick.

How far insanity is dependant on altered structure may be difficult to shew, particularly when it is recollected, that in comparing the indications of a healthy performance of

the functions of the brain, with those symptomatic of disease, we so often arrive at the conviction of the fallacy of external signs, as to make us cautious in applying conjectures to practical purposes. In several cases however, which I have had occasion to examine, not only considerable disease, but singular malformation has existed, from which very cheering inferences have been drawn, by relatives, as to its hereditary dependencies. Of this, the following case is an extraordinary instance, and presents a singular specimen of the increase of ossific matter, in the medullary part of the cranium.

Plate 1.



W Wadd 6 1871.



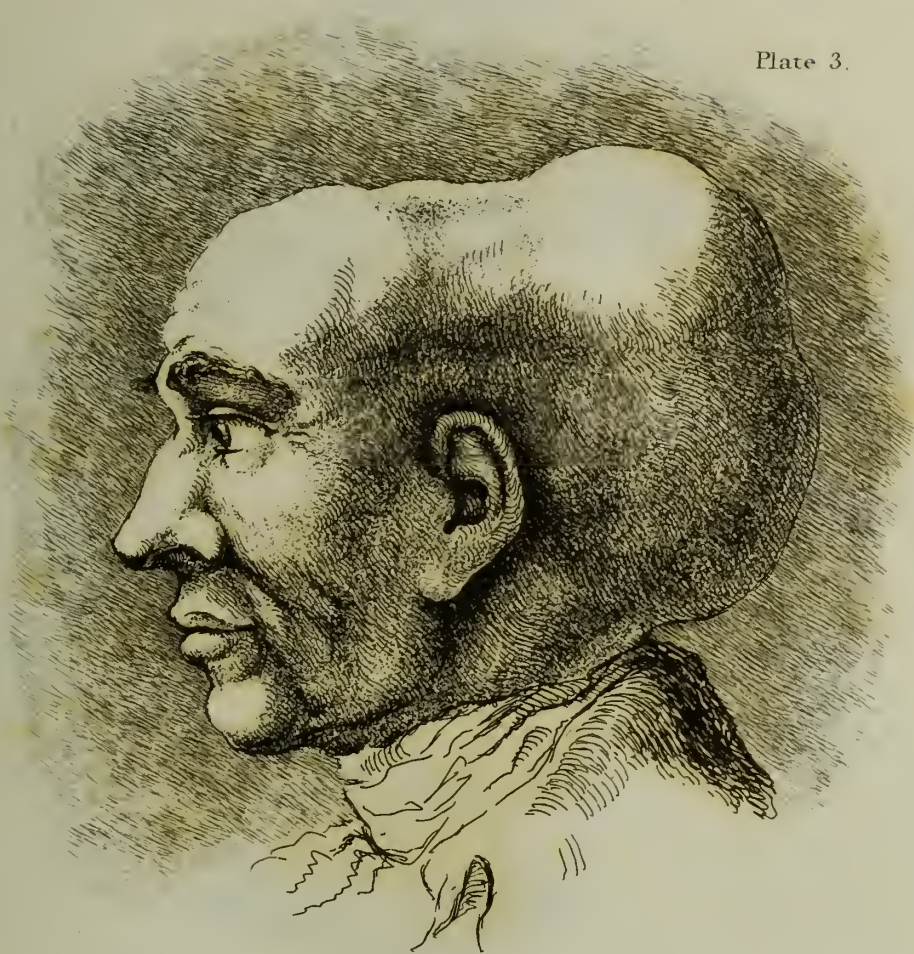
PLATE I. & II.

THE gentleman, whose case is illustrated in these plates, I. and II., was about forty years of age, and had been under the care of Doctor Willis for many years, on account of his insane state of mind. From his earliest youth he had been remarkable for the singularity of the shape of his head, a deformity which increased as he advanced in life. He died at Hoxton, December 1800, and on the 25th of that month I opened his head, in the presence of Dr. Willis and Sir James Earle.

On dissecting off the scalp, the sutures of the head were scarcely visible, and the cranium appeared, as represented in plate I., curiously distorted by a prominent bony tumor, occupying great part of the right parietal and occipital bones. When divided by the saw and removed, a section of the tumor appeared to consist of a bony fungus, between the two tables of the skull, two inches in thickness, very heavy; and resembling what has been designated by some authors Osteo-Sarcoma.

The brain had no other marks of disease, than what is usual in cases of slow and repeated inflammation. There was a small quantity of serum in the convolutions of the brain, and about two ounces in the ventricles. The dura and pia mater were also thicker than usual.

Plate 3.



W. W. Wood. 1815

Published as the Act directs: Feb^y 21st 1819 by J. Callow Printer, St. John

Plate 4.



W W add. f 1818

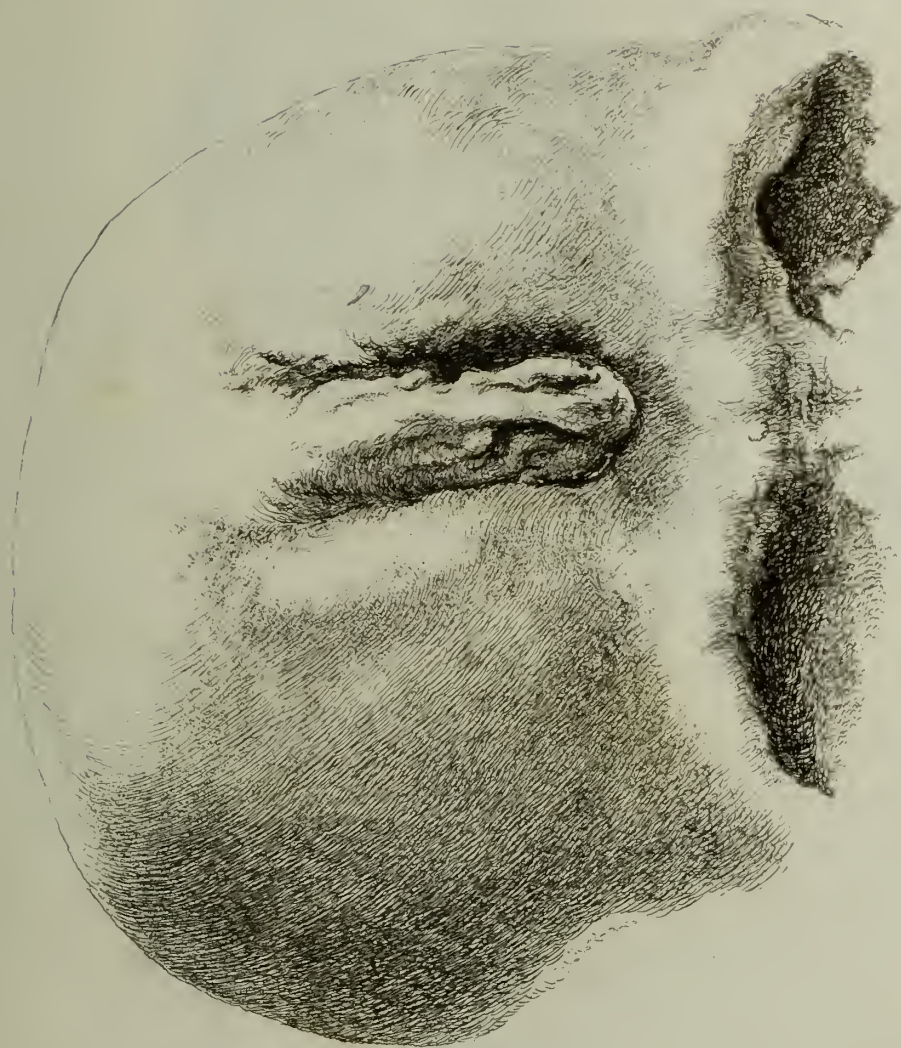


PLATE III. & IV.

REPRESENT the head of a maniac, where great distortion was produced by a similar deposit of bony matter between the tables of the skull. The two upper portions of bone in Plate IV. are sections of the cranium at different parts. The lower portion is the figure of some ossiculi, which will be noticed further on.

Mr. Thompson, one of the editors of the *Medical Repository*, saw a similar instance at the Hospital de la Charité, at Paris. On sawing through the skull-cap, at the vertex, in a direction parallel to the coronal suture, the right parietal bone was found to be thickened, so as to form an irregular tumor externally; the thickest part of which exceeded an inch, whilst the cavity of the cranium was perfectly natural. In a note, the Editor remarks, “ This skull was examined chiefly as affording an admirable illustration of the fallacy of Drs. Gall and Spurzheim’s physiological hypothesis; the external form of the skull displaying an extraordinary developement of the organs of *Hope* and *Conscientiousness*, without any cerebral enlargement.”

Vide *Repository*, Nov. 1817, p. 422.



W. W. Add. 1816

W. W. Add. 1816



Plate 6.



W Wadd f. 1818



PLATES V. & VI.

THESE etchings shew the state of the bones of the head, in two cases of insanity, arising from external injury.

Both these persons were soldiers, and the injury they received was from blows with a sabre.

From appearances, and the circumstances attending, it is probable, that much benefit might have been derived had surgical assistance been afforded at an early period.

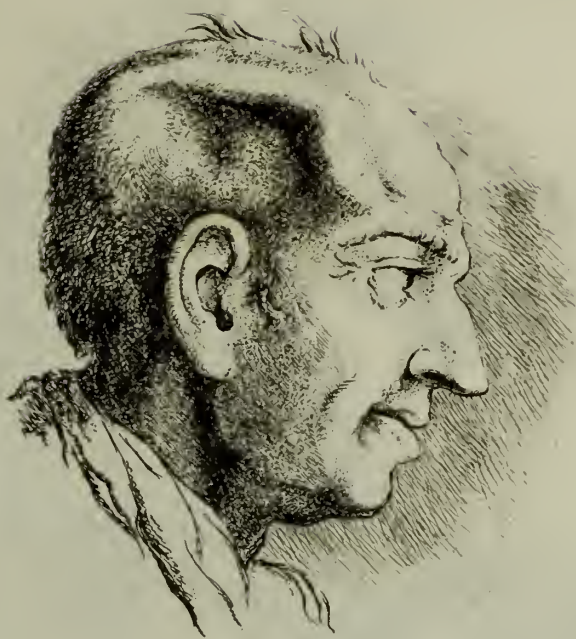
Many instances are to be found recorded, in the journals of the Royal Academy of Sciences at Paris, and other scientific bodies, of epilepsy and idiotism cured by trepanning. I shall illustrate this by the following case :

A gentleman, about 40 years of age, fell with great force on his head, which produced insensibility for many days ; after a few weeks, however, when he had recovered from dangerous symptoms, he became insane, and was placed under the superintendence of Doctor Monro. At a consultation and examination of the head, a small indentation was discovered, which when touched caused excruciating pain. It was proposed to apply the trephine, which was accordingly done, and a portion of the skull removed : the longitudinal sinus was opened in the operation, and bled considerably,

but without any ill consequence, and he recovered his senses shortly after.

Some object to the removal of portions of the cranium, lest protrusions of the brain should ensue; but 'this' is not to be feared, unless from a diseased state, or from circumstances explained by Mr. Abernethy, as the cause of hernia cerebri. When the operation of the trephine was very common, a protrusion of this kind very seldom took place.

Plate 7



Ward

Published as the Act directs, Feb^r 1832, by J. Tallent, Printer, Strand.





W Wadd f 1815.



PLATE VII.

Is a portrait of a labouring man, who had his head jambed against a wall, by a cart wheel. By this accident a portion of the temporal bone was driven into the brain, a part of which appeared on the surface of the lacerated teguments; the parietal bone was also fractured, and an exfoliation took place, as represented in plate VIII., after which he got perfectly well. Notwithstanding the extensive injury, and the great destruction of such important parts, he lived twenty years, without any alteration in his corporeal functions, or mental faculties, continuing in very laborious duties to the day of his death. Gentle pressure on the brain gave him no pain, but if continued a few minutes, it affected his vision.

Van Swieten relates a case of a beggar woman, who lost half her skull by an accident, and was in the habit of carrying the bone about from house to house. If the finger was pressed on the dura mater, she screamed aloud, and said she saw a thousand lights.

In the Medical Commentaries, Vol. I. and XVII.; Annual Register, 1763, and Edinburgh Medical Essays, are many similar cases. And in the Medico-Chirurgical Transactions, Vol. II., a case terminated favourably, when the quantity of brain lost, was estimated to be as much as a "large egg full and a half," or more.



W. H. Add. 1871



PLATE IX.

EXHIBITS a cancerous affection of the eye-lids and surrounding parts, accompanied with diseased state of the brain, the effect of external injury.

This man, about 50 years of age, received a violent blow on the eye, from the end of an oar. Great inflammation ensued, which subsided without any injury to his sight, though he was never free from pain in his head. Six months afterwards, an insect stung him in the same eye, which instantly caused great swelling, and destroyed the power of vision. Inflammation and pain were excessive, and in the course of a few weeks the eye sloughed away, leaving the orbit bare, and the eye-lids as represented in the drawing. He lingered some months in misery, and retained his faculties to the last.

Upon the dissection of his head, the right hemisphere of the brain was found covered with pus, and a considerable portion of the anterior lobe in a state of suppuration, but chiefly in a line parallel with the foramen opticum. The brain adhered firmly to the dura mater, covering the orbital process of the frontal bone, and extending to the os petrosum.

On opening the ventricles, a small quantity of fluid

was found, of a yellow colour, and foetid smell. The thalami nervorum opticorum, were of a dark purple colour.

The brain and cerebellum were unusually soft, and the veins on the surface so pale, as in some parts to be scarcely visible.

Part of the orbitary process was destroyed, making an opening large enough to admit the passage of two fingers.

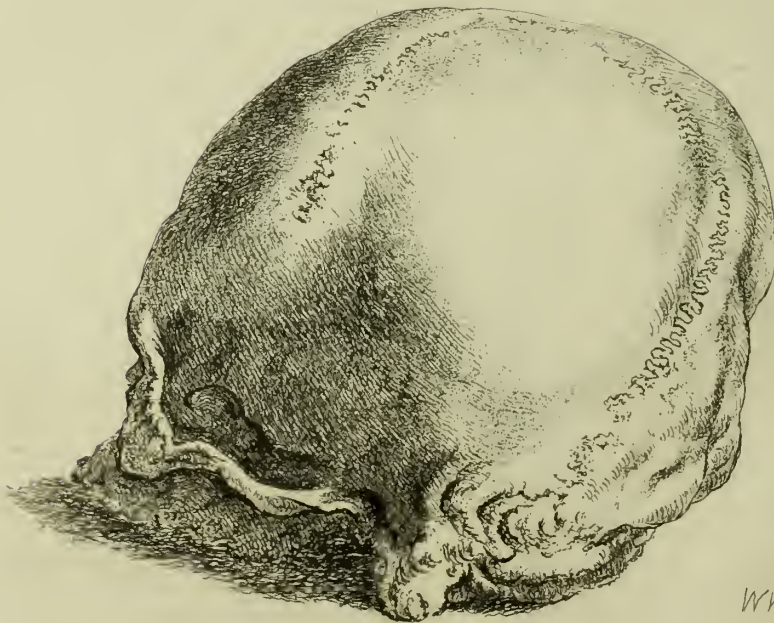
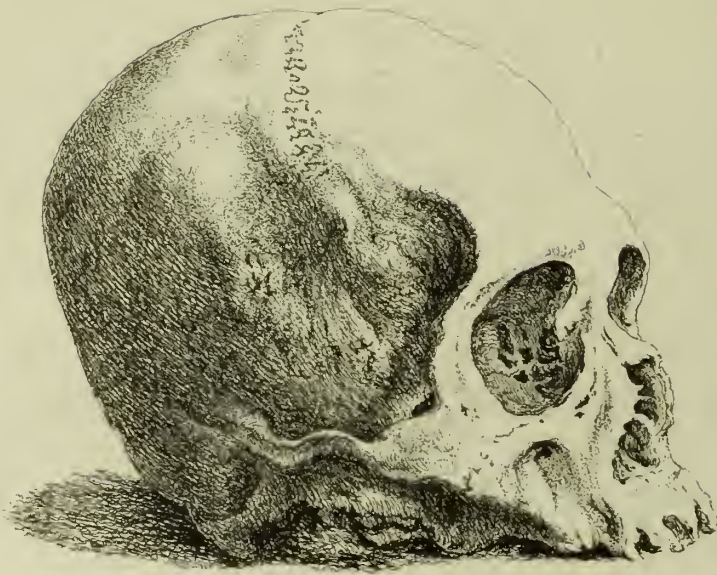
In a similar case, of a patient of the late Mr. Bureau's, who lost the use of one eye, from a blow on the forehead, abscess was formed on the anterior lobe of the brain; the orbitary process denuded, and a portion of it, near the foramen opticum, in a state of ulceration. This man also was sensible to the last; and his case, with the two preceding, are given, as illustrative of the extensive injury the brain may sustain, without affecting the faculties.



PLATE X.

MALFORMATION of the head, in a male child, constituting what is commonly called an acephalous foetus, and by some, cat's-head.

In this case, the os frontis, the parietal, and part of the occipital bones were wanting. It had neither brain, spinal marrow, nor spinal processes; and in the abdomen the liver was deficient. In other respects, the formation of the body and limbs were natural.



W Wadd. / 1816

PLATE XI.

A curious Head, from Alpica, in the possession of J. C. Carpue, Esq.——Dr. Leach, of the British Museum, has a similar one in his Collection, given him by Sir Joseph Banks.

FINIS.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

OBSERVATIONS
IN
SURGERY AND MORBID ANATOMY.

PART I.
CASES OF DISEASED BLADDER AND TESTICLE,
ILLUSTRATED BY
TWENTY-ONE ETCHINGS BY THE AUTHOR;
Quarto, Boards, 18s.

PART II.
ON THE DISEASES OF THE PREPUCE AND SCROTUM,
ILLUSTRATED BY TWELVE ETCHINGS.
Quarto, Boards, 11s.

OBSERVATIONS
ON THE BEST MODE OF CURING
STRICTURES IN THE URETHRA,
WITH
REMARKS ON THE FREQUENT INEFFECTUACY AND ILL EFFECTS OF
CAUSTIC APPLICATIONS.

Second Edition, Enlarged, Octavo, Boards, 4s.

CURSORY REMARKS ON CORPULENCE;

OR,
OBESITY CONSIDERED AS A DISEASE:
WITH
A CRITICAL EXAMINATION OF ANCIENT AND MODERN OPINIONS,
RELATIVE TO ITS CAUSES AND CURE.

THIRD EDITION,
CONTAINING A REFERENCE TO THE MOST REMARKABLE CASES
THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN THIS COUNTRY;
Octavo, Boards, 5s.

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

500 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

1911

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

500 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

1911

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

500 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

1911

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY

ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION

500 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

1911

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY
ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION
500 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.